

Serial No. 10/664,477

Amendments to the claims

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A method for use in a system in a vehicle, the system including a display element, the method comprising:

providing at least one indicator on the display element;

allowing a manipulation of the indicator on the display element to adjust a first distance relative to a reference distance to define a second distance, the first distance being established by a user of the system, the manipulation of the indicator being restricted from effecting an adjustment of the first distance to be less than zero, resulting in the second distance exceeding the reference distance by the first distance, the reference distance being a function of at least a current speed of the vehicle ~~relative to a detectable object outside the vehicle~~;

determining whether a separation between the vehicle and a detectable object outside the vehicle is maintained at at least the second distance; and

providing an alert when it is determined that the separation of at least the second distance is not maintained.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the second distance is measured from the front of the vehicle.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the second distance is measured from the back of the vehicle.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the second distance is measured from a side of the vehicle.

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25. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the detectable object includes a second vehicle.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the indicator is manipulatable by dragging the indicator on the display element.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising indicating the detectable object on the display element.

28. (currently amended) A method for use in a system in a vehicle, the system including a display element, the method comprising:

providing at least one indicator on the display element;

allowing a manipulation of the indicator to define, on the display element, a first zone surrounding the vehicle, the manipulation of the indicator being restricted from defining the first zone to be smaller than a second zone whose area is a function of at least a current speed of the vehicle relative to a detectable object outside the vehicle, at least a length of the first zone relative to a length of the second zone being established by a user of the system;

determining whether a detectable object outside the vehicle is infringing upon the first zone; and

providing an alert when it is determined that a detectable object outside the vehicle is infringing upon the first zone.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the detectable object includes a second vehicle.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 wherein the indicator is

manipulatable by dragging the indicator on the display element.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 28 further comprising indicating the detectable object on the display element.

32. (currently amended) A system for use in a vehicle comprising:
a display element, at least one indicator being provided on the display element;
an interface for allowing a manipulation of the indicator on the display element to adjust a first distance relative to a reference distance to define a second distance, the first distance being established by a user of the system, the manipulation of the indicator being restricted from effecting an adjustment of the first distance to be less than zero, resulting in the second distance exceeding the reference distance by the first distance, the reference distance being a function of at least a current speed of the vehicle ~~relative to a detectable object outside the vehicle~~;
a processor for determining whether a separation between the vehicle and a detectable object outside the vehicle is maintained at at least the second distance; and
an output device for providing an alert when it is determined that the separation of at least the second distance is not maintained.

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the second distance is measured from the front of the vehicle.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the second distance is measured from the back of the vehicle.

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the second distance is measured from a side of the vehicle.

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36. (previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the detectable object includes a second vehicle.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the indicator is manipulatable by dragging the indicator on the display element.

38. (previously presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the detectable object is indicated on the display element.

39. (currently amended) A system for use in a vehicle comprising:
a display element, at least one indicator being provided on the display element;
an interface for allowing a manipulation of the indicator to define, on the display element, a first zone surrounding the vehicle, the manipulation of the indicator being restricted from defining the first zone to be smaller than a second zone whose area is a function of at least a current speed of the vehicle relative to a detectable object outside the vehicle, at least a length of the first zone relative to a length of the second zone being established by a user of the system;

a processor for determining whether a detectable object outside the vehicle is infringing upon the first zone; and

an output device for providing an alert when it is determined that a detectable object outside the vehicle is infringing upon the first zone.

40. (previously presented) The system of claim 39 wherein the detectable object includes a second vehicle.

41. (previously presented) The system of claim 39 wherein the indicator is manipulatable by dragging the indicator on the display element.

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42. (previously presented) The system of claim 39 wherein the detectable object is indicated on the display element.

43. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein the reference distance is also a function of a current speed of a detectable object outside the vehicle.

44. (new) The method of claim 28 wherein the area is also a function of a current speed of a detectable object outside the vehicle.

45. (new) The system of claim 32 wherein the reference distance is also a function of a current speed of a detectable object outside the vehicle.

46. (new) The system of claim 39 wherein the area is also a function of a current speed of a detectable object outside the vehicle.